

A NEW COMBINATION IN *LACHENALIA* WITH NOTES ON THE SPECIES

W. F. BARKER

(*Compton Herbarium, Kirstenbosch*)

ABSTRACT

A new combination *Lachenalia pearsonii* (Glover) Barker is made, and the name *Lachenalia Pearsoni* in use for a cultivar is found to be a nomen nudum.

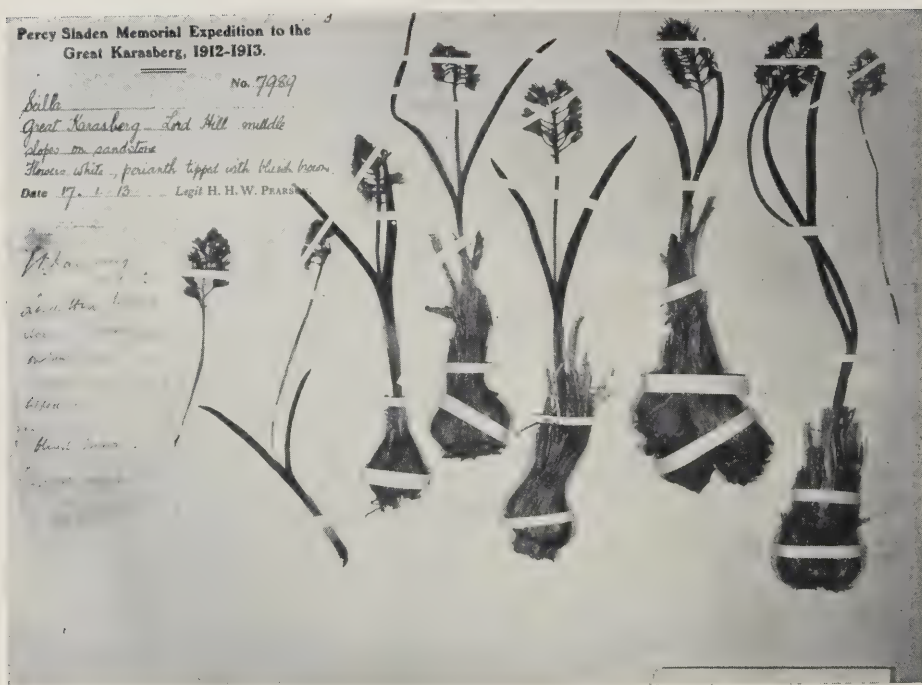
***Lachenalia pearsonii* (Glover) Barker comb. nov.**

Scilla pearsonii Glover, in Ann. Bolus Herb. 1. 105 (1915)—basionym.

Scilla pearsonii was described by Miss R. Glover from specimens which were collected by Professor H. H. W. Pearson while on the Percy Sladen Memorial Expedition to the Great-Karasberg, S.W. Africa 1912–1913. The holotype sheet H. H. W. Pearson No 7989 is in the Bolus Herbarium, and attached to it is a field label in Pearson's hand on which the locality is given as Gt. Karasberg, Lord Hill. This name cannot be traced on any map, but in her description Miss Glover cites the locality as Central Karasberg, Scharfenstein which on modern maps appears as Schroffenstein, 3027AD on the grid system.

In July 1963 when examining the sheet Mrs. A. A. Mauve of the Botanical Research Institute, Pretoria, suggested that it would be better placed in the genus *Lachenalia*. On dissecting a young flower, it was found, that in contrast to that of *Scilla* which has polypetalous flowers with almost equal segments, it had a short tube with the filaments of the stamens adnate to it, and the segments of the two perianth whorls differed in width and shape. I have therefore decided to transfer the species and to make the new combination *Lachenalia pearsonii* (Glover) Barker. It is only known from the type locality and the type collection, and has some of the smallest and most inconspicuous flowers in the genus.

For a number of years a showy plant with large orange-yellow pendulous flowers with a red base and red tips to the inner segments, has been cultivated in public parks and private gardens under the name of *Lachenalia Pearsoni*. It is said to be the result of a cross between *L. Nelsoni* (itself a hybrid) and *L. bulbifera* (*L. pendula*) which was raised by Mr. Pearson, curator of the Parks



Lachenalia pearsonii (Glover) Barker. H. H. W. Pearson 7989, type sheet of *Scilla pearsonii* Glover in Bolus Herbarium.

Photo: J. P. Rourke

and Gardens of Auckland City, New Zealand, after whom it was named. As the name has not been validly published with a Latin description as required by the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature, Article 40, it must be considered to be a nomen nudum and the epithet *pearsonii* to be correctly applied to Pearson No. 7989 as the holotype.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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